Crestwood officials cut corners and supplied residents with tainted water for 2 decades

By: Michael Hawthorne
STAFF REPORTER

Like every town across the nation, south suburban Crestwood tucks a notice into utility bills each summer reassuring its 28,000 residents their drinking water is safe. Village leaders also trumpet the claim in their monthly newsletter, while extolling that they offer the cheapest water rates in Cook County.

But those pronouncements hide a troubling reality: For more than two decades, the 11,000 or so residents in this working-class community unknowingly drank tap water contaminated with toxic chemicals linked to cancer and other health problems, a Newspaper investigation found.

As village officials were building a national reputation for cutting corners to save money and focusing on keeping utility bills each summer reassuring its residents their tap water is safe, state and federal environmental laws were not to waste!, state and federal environmental laws through environmental laws.  "Grocery is more than half of Wal-Mart's business. Yet only 5 percent of the food that we buy is grown and sold locally," the retailer's president and chief executive, Michael T. Duke, said in remarks prepared for a meeting Thursday morning. "Given that Wal-Mart is the world's largest grocery buyer, with one in five Americans shopping in its stores, this means that we need to do more to increase the efficiency among its suppliers." The program is intended to put more locally grown food in Wal-Mart stores in the United States, invest in training and infrastructure for small and medium-size farmers, particularly in emerging markets, and begin to measure the efficiency of large suppliers in growing and getting their produce to market.

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Wal-Mart thinking globally, acting locally

Giant retailer announces initiative to focus on locally

By: Bruce Kirby
BUSINESS WRITER

Wal-Mart Stores announced a program on Thursday that would focus on sustainable agriculture among its suppliers, as it tries to expand its efforts to improve environmental efficiency among its suppliers. Its goal is to put more locally grown food in Wal-Mart stores in the United States, invest in training and infrastructure for small and medium-size farmers, particularly in emerging markets, and begin to measure the efficiency of large suppliers in growing and getting their produce to market.

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